

## **CLAIMS**

We claim:

1. An apparatus, comprising:

a network component that employs one or more call characteristics to make a  
5 determination to initiate a request for one or more positions of one or more mobile  
stations.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the network component performs a  
comparison of the one or more call characteristics with one or more thresholds to  
make the determination to initiate the request for the one or more positions of the one  
10 or more mobile stations.

3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the one or more call characteristics  
comprise a pilot signal strength characteristic, wherein the one or more thresholds  
comprise a pilot signal strength threshold, wherein the network component performs a  
comparison of the pilot signal strength characteristic with the pilot signal strength  
15 threshold;

wherein the network component makes the determination to initiate the request  
for the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations based on a result of  
the comparison of the pilot signal strength characteristic with the pilot signal strength  
threshold.

4. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the network component employs the one or more call characteristics to create one or more call statistics, wherein the one or more thresholds comprise one or more call characteristic thresholds and one or more call statistic thresholds;

5 wherein the network component performs a comparison of the one or more call statistics with the one or more call statistic thresholds;

wherein the network component employs a comparison of the one or more call characteristics with the one or more call characteristic thresholds and the comparison of the one or more call statistics with the one or more call statistic thresholds to make  
10 the determination to initiate the request.

5. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the network component comprises an interface, wherein the network component receives the one or more thresholds from a service provider through employment of the interface.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the network component employs the  
15 determination to initiate the request to promote an avoidance of congestion in one or more cellular network communication paths.

7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the network component makes the determination to initiate the request upon an exceedance of the one or more call characteristics relative to one or more thresholds;

20 wherein upon the exceedance of the one or more call characteristics relative to the one or more thresholds, the network component and a position component cooperate to obtain the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations.

8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein upon a termination of the exceedance of the one or more call characteristics relative to the one or more thresholds, the network component and the position component cooperate to discontinue attainment of the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations.

5 9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the network component employs the one or more call characteristics to perform a selection of the one or more mobile stations from a plurality of mobile stations;

wherein the network component employs the selection to formulate the request for the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations from the plurality of  
10 mobile stations.

10. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the one or more mobile stations are associated with one or more cellular network cells;

wherein the network component employs the one or more call characteristics to perform a selection of the one or more cellular network cells from a plurality of  
15 cellular network cells;

wherein the network component employs the selection to formulate the request for the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations that are associated with the one or more cellular network cells.

11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the network component employs a switch component to identify the one or more mobile stations that are associated with the one or more cellular network cells;

wherein the network component employs the switch component to determine  
5 the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations that are associated with the one or more cellular network cells.

12. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the network component receives the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations in response to the request;

wherein the network component employs the one or more positions of the one  
10 or more mobile stations and the one or more call characteristics to develop a coverage map.

13. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a switch component that provides the one or more call characteristics to the network component;

15 wherein the network component employs the one or more call characteristics to make a determination to initiate a request to the switch component;

wherein the switch component obtains the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations based on the request to the switch component.

14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the network component provides to the switch component one or more call parameters;

wherein the switch component employs the one or more call parameters to perform an identification of the one or more mobile stations from a plurality of mobile  
5 stations;

wherein the switch component employs the identification of the one or more mobile stations from the plurality of mobile stations to obtain the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations.

15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the one or more mobile stations are  
10 associated with one or more calls;

wherein the switch component employs the one or more call parameters to perform an identification of the one or more calls from a plurality of calls;

wherein the switch component employs the identification of the one or more calls from the plurality of calls to obtain the one or more positions of the one or more  
15 mobile stations that are associated with the one or more calls.

16. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the network component and the switch component receive the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations from a position component;

wherein the network component and the switch component cooperate to  
20 develop a coverage map through employment of the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations.

17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the position component employs one or more of an Enhanced Forward Link Trilateration algorithm and an IS-801 solution using an Assisted Global Positioning System (AGPS), Advanced Forward Link Trilateration (AFLT) or combined AGPS/AFLT algorithm to determine the one or  
5 more positions of the one or more mobile stations.

18. A method, comprising the step of:

initiating a request for one or more positions of one or more mobile stations through employment of one or more call characteristics.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the step of initiating the request for the

5 one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations through employment of the one or more call characteristics comprises the steps of:

performing a comparison of the one or more call characteristics with one or more thresholds; and

initiating the request for the one or more positions of the one or more mobile  
10 stations based on the comparison.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the step of initiating the request for the

one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations based on the comparison comprises the steps of:

determining one or more call parameters associated with the one or more  
15 thresholds;

identifying the one or more mobile stations from a plurality of mobile stations through employment of the one or more call parameters; and

initiating the request for the one or more positions of the one or more mobile stations through employment of the one or more call parameters.

21. An article, comprising:

one or more computer-readable signal-bearing media;

means in the one or more media for initiating a request for one or more  
positions of one or more mobile stations through employment of one or more call  
5 characteristics.

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